Private participation for development of sports

450. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds earmarked for development of sports in the country is inadequate;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to enhance the funds for development of sports, especially in view of Commonwealth Games in 2010; and

(c) whether Government are considering to involve private participation for creating infrastructure for sports to that of international standards and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) and (b) The sports is a State subject. The allocations for development of sports in different disciplines have to be made by the State Governments as well as concerned National Sports Federations. The Government of India supplements these efforts by making available assistance to State Governments. National Sports Federations and sportspersons under the diefferent schemes of the Ministry.

The allocation for sports during 1995-96 to 2004-2005 has risen from Rs. 55.00 crores to Rs. 252.00 crores. The proposed outlay for sports in the budget document for 2005-06 is Rs. 312.79 crores, out of which Rs. 45.00 crores has been earmarked for Commonwealth Games 2010.

(c) The Government of India seeks private participation for creating infrastructure for sports under the following Schemes:—

(i) Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure

(ii) Promotion of Sports in Universities and Colleges

(iii) State Sports Academy

Performance in Olympic

†451. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the main reasons for poor and shameful performance of India in Olympic besides the partiality in selection of athletes; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the details of efforts being made by Government for better performance in Olympics?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) During the Athens Olympic Games, Indian sportsperson Major R.V.S. Rathore won a silver medal in shooting. This is the first silver medal won by an individual sportsperson since India's independence. Over the years, the performance of Indian sportspersons in Olympics has been improving. In 1996 and 2000 India won only a bronze medal. No medal could be won in 1984 and 1988 Olympics. Moreover, during the Athens Olympic Games, 2004 in the disciplines of Archery, Shooting and Weightlifting Indian sportspersons were close to medals and in the disciplines of Athletics they created new national records.

For participation in 2004 Olympics, Individuals/Teams had to qualify/ achieve the qualifying standards/norms fixed by the international sports federations/International Olympic Committee in identified international competitions. However, in the disciplines of Athetotics and Swimming which are measurable, timings/standards had been fixed by the international federation to be achieved during National and international competitions. Accordingly selection for participation was made by the concerned National Sports Federations.

(b) Government of India, in addition to providing sports infrastructure, is taking following steps to improve the performance of sportspersons in the international games:—

(i) Finalization & implementation of Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs) for various sports disciplines in consultation with the concerned National Sports Federations, former international sportspersons and sports/scientists experts.

(ii) Provision of equipment and scientific support to sportspersons.

(iii) Intensive coaching of the players by Indian and foreign coaches in coaching camps.

(iv) Intensive training abroad to the teams as well Indian Coaches.

(v) Financial assistance to concerned federations for participation of sportspersons in international tournaments.

(vi) The outstanding boys and girls are provided scholarships so that they can have nutritious diet, sports equipment support and be able to pursue sports as a career. Scholarships are also given for research in sports.

(vii) Assistance for purchase of equipment, scientific support and training and participation within the country and abroad under the 'Scheme relating to Talent Search and Training' and the 'National Sports Development Fund'.

(viii) With a view to broad basing of sports and scouting for talent at a young age, the Government is assisting Army under 'Army Boys Sports Company Scheme' (ABSC). In additional to eight existing ABSCs, ten more ABSCs have been sanctioned during the current year.

25 Navodaya Vidyalayas have been approved to be included in the National Talent Search Contest Scheme (NTSC) during the current year.

Standard of Football

452. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to increase the standards of football at the college and university level in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that India has never been able to make a mark in the Olympics in football;

(c) the reasons for not even trying to encourage our youth to take up football which is a low capital intensive sport;

(d) whether any alternate football governing body will be floated to encourage youngsters to take up football; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTTJ: (a) Football is one of the identified disciplines under various schemes of the Sports Aaithority of India (SAI) under which the sportspersons with potential are selected and admitted in SAI Sports Centres for regular training in this discipline. At present, 1191 football players in the age group